



# Huntly Football Club - Spectator Safety Policy

## Organisation/Structure for Implementing Safety

The Board together with the Safety Officer have the responsibility for ensuring that the Policy is observed and that club personnel who are engaged in safety duties, clearly understand the requirements of the policy.

## Arrangements for Monitoring the Policy

Members of the Club Committee, the Stewards and the Safety Officer will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the policy and report on a regular basis to the Board.

## Spectator Management

Spectator management will be controlled as follows:

- **Segregation**

Segregation will be implemented within Christie Park only when deemed necessary by the Match Risk assessment. In instances where this is required an appropriately sized area will be allocated within the Ground. This will be split from the rest of the stand through the provision of a line of barriers, and will be stewarded as appropriate.

- **Entry of Spectators**

Spectators will be admitted to the ground in an orderly, safe manner through the Turnstiles. Stewards will be in attendance, as deemed appropriate, to ensure the safety of spectators. People who are clearly under the influence of drink or are in possession of unauthorised objects (including bottles) will not be allowed into the ground. Please refer to the Christie Park Stadium Regulations for further details.

The Club will ensure that an effective system for counting spectators as they enter the ground is in place so that club officials can ascertain the number of spectators in the ground at any time. Where the Match Risk Assessment indicates that there is likely to be high demand or other significant risk then the Club may decide to declare the game an 'all ticket' event and control the sale of tickets in this manner.

If necessary, appropriate information can be relayed to spectators over the Club's public address system which can be heard in all areas of the ground.

- **Management of Spectators in the Ground**

Stewards and Club Officials will monitor the safety of spectators in the ground, as appropriate, and report any potential problems. Stewards will be responsible for ensuring that the "No Smoking" policy, for the stand, is implemented. The public address system will be used to relay safety related information to spectators.



Spectators can enter the stands from either end but Stewards will ensure access / exit walkways are kept clear.

All steps / uneven areas on spectator walkways will be highlighted with high visibility markings.

The maximum number of spectators allowed in Christie Park is 2600 and the maximum number allowed in the Stand is 195.

The calculated capacity in standing areas surrounding the pitch playing surface is 2405. There is approximately 300m of available space around the pitch perimeter rail. This calculated capacity is based upon the perimeter rail not being classified as a crush barrier, and as such a depth of 1.5m, which equates to 4 spectators deep, has been used. This is in line with the guidance stipulated in the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds, Green Book.

The ground capacity has been calculated as a total of 2600, and this has been verified by Aberdeenshire Council in their issued "Letter of Compliance" for Christie Park, Huntly.

- **Exit of Spectators**

Spectators will be allowed to leave the ground at the appropriate exits. Stewards and Club Officials will ensure that exit gates are opened before the end of the game and that spectators leave in an orderly manner, with particular consideration given to children and disabled persons. Exits and emergency escape routes will be kept clear of obstructions at all times.

- **Disabled Persons**

Disabled persons within the ground will be assisted to a designated safe area, or to another area if they wish, by Stewards or Committee Members as appropriate. Stewards will assist disabled persons to enter or leave the ground if such assistance is required. Likewise if requested they will assist disabled person in accessing public amenities e.g. toilets, or refreshment facilities.

- **Stewarding**

The club will ensure that an appropriate number of Stewards are in attendance for each home game. The Club will endeavor to provide suitable training for as the regular Stewards. When formal training is not possible, on the job training will be given. Stewards will be identifiable by wearing high visibility vests or jackets at all times.

Where the match Risk Assessment indicates that additional stewards are required, the Club may contract out the service to a reputable security company. Stewards will always be under the control of the Club.



A Steward's Code of Practice has also been produced by the Club as a separate document.

- **Inspections**

Stadium inspections will be carried out by the Safety Officer and will cover the following areas:

All exits - clear and accessible

Signage - where appropriate are in place

Combustible or flammable material is not in evidence

Fire fighting equipment, as appropriate, in place and available for use

All stadium lighting is in working order

Inspections by Aberdeenshire Council are carried out on a regular basis

- **Contractors**

If contractors are working at the ground, the Club Safety Officer or his deputy will ensure that they are made aware of the club's policies on health and safety

- **Communications with the Public**

Matters relating to safety within Christie Park will be relayed to the public through the public address system, via the match day program, or on the Club's web site. (In the event of the normal public address system failing a loud-hailer is available for use.)

- **Communications with staff**

Staff, volunteers, stewards and Club Officials will be made aware of the Club's Policies and any changes to them. Records of such communications will be maintained.

- **Fire Precautions**

The Club operates a no smoking policy in all enclosed areas within the ground and in the stand. Full details of the Clubs policy on fire can be found in the Fire Safety Policy.

- **First aid/medical provision**

The Club will ensure that adequate First Aid personnel are present at all home games, personnel with Sports Injury training will be available on match days.

These first aiders will have access to medical equipment if required. The Club has a separate First Aid Plan.



- **Crowd Doctor**

If indicated in the Match Risk Assessment, arrangements will be made to have a suitably trained doctor in attendance. The whereabouts of the doctor in the ground will be made known to first aid personnel and key members of the Club committee. The doctor will normally be situated in the Stand or dug-out area.

- **Ambulance**

Ambulances are stationed at the local Ambulance depot or hospital and can normally be at the ground within 5 minutes.

- **Club Contingency Plans**

The club has drawn up a Contingency Plan to deal with emergencies and incidents, which might occur during a match or when spectators are queuing to enter the ground.

Controlled copies of the Contingency Plan are available to the Clubs Safety Personnel, Management and Emergency Services. A controlled copy will be kept in the Secretaries office at the park should it be required. The Club Committee, together with the Safety Officer will continually review the Contingency Plan and revise it in the light of lessons learned from any incidents that may take place and in consultation with the Emergency Services.

- **Maintenance of records**

A record will be kept by the Club Safety Officer of any accident or incident which causes injury other than playing injury which:

- a) Is brought to the notice of the Club Safety Officer or Club Committee
- b) Occurs whilst the Stadium is in use for a specified event, and
- c) has safety implications

Other records that will be maintained by the Safety Officer are as follows:

- A record of all first aid and medical treatment provided during or in connection with a specified event.
- A record on inspections and tests of fire fighting equipment.
- A record of tests on the public address system (6 monthly).
- A record in Defects Log Book of any defect relating to the Safety of the ground, howsoever discovered, together with a record of when such a defect was remedied.

A record of the following certificates:

- A certificate of inspection of the fire fighting equipment.
- A letter of compliance issued by the local authority

Signed on behalf of Huntly Football Club

Date: 04 June 2018